

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
16 June 2005 (16.06.2005)

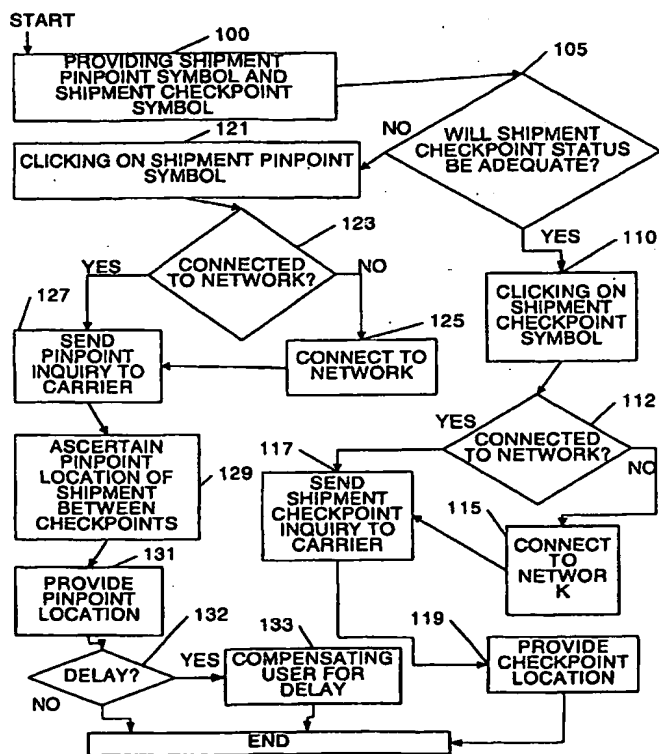
PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/054990 A2**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G06F**
- (21) International Application Number: **PCT/US2004/039218**
- (22) International Filing Date:  
23 November 2004 (23.11.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: **English**
- (26) Publication Language: **English**
- (30) Priority Data:  
10/722,231 25 November 2003 (25.11.2003) **US**
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **PITNEY BOWES INC.** [US/US]; 1 Elmcroft Road, Stamford, CT 06926 (US).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **HAMMELL,**
- Bradley, R. [US/US]; 235A Berkeley Road, Fairfield, CT 06825 (US).
- (74) Agent: **MEYER, Robert, E.**; Pitney Bowes Inc., 35 Waterview Drive, Shelton, CT 06484 (US).
- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD FOR PROVIDING A SHORTCUT TO SHIPPING INFORMATION



(57) Abstract: A method and system are provided for a user to determine the status of a shipment being transported by a carrier. The user performs a transaction at a web site, and chooses a type of shipment. A file in markup language includes at least one link to shipment tracking information, and this file is provided to the user and saved locally at a user device. The user activates the file to check the shipping status, which is then displayed. In this way, the user is able to access aggregated shipping information from a plurality of carriers. Also, the user is able to obtain pinpoint shipping status, if the user needs more details than merely finding out a checkpoint through which a shipment has passed.

## (12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date  
16 June 2005 (16.06.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/054990 A3**(51) International Patent Classification:  
G06F 17/00 (2006.01)(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2004/039218(22) International Filing Date:  
23 November 2004 (23.11.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
10/722,231 25 November 2003 (25.11.2003) US

GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): PITNEY BOWES INC. [US/US]; 1 Elmcroft Road, Stamford, CT 06926 (US).

## Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): HAMMELL, Bradley, R. [US/US]; 235A Berkeley Road, Fairfield, CT 06825 (US).

## Published:

— with international search report  
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(74) Agent: MEYER, Robert, E.; Pitney Bowes Inc., 35 Waterview Drive, Shelton, CT 06484 (US).

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
23 November 2006

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD FOR PROVIDING A SHORTCUT TO SHIPPING INFORMATION

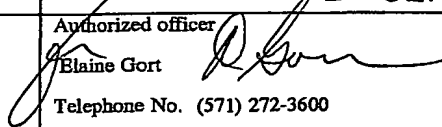
(57) Abstract: A method and system are provided for a user to determine the status of a shipment being transported by a carrier. The user performs a transaction at a web site, and chooses a type of shipment. A file in markup language includes at least one link to shipment tracking information, and this file is provided to the user and saved locally at a user device. The user activates the file to check the shipping status, which is then displayed. In this way, the user is able to access aggregated shipping information from a plurality of carriers. Also, the user is able to obtain pinpoint shipping status, if the user needs more details than merely finding out a checkpoint through which a shipment has passed.

WO 2005/054990 A3

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/39218

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> IPC: G06F 17/60  USPC: 705/22,23,26,28 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b> Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 705/22,23,26,28  Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Internet, Dialog, Non-Patent References  Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) Dialog		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 7,020,584 B2 (TAKAOKA et al) 28 March 2006 (28.03.2006), entire document.	1-20
A	US 2002/0082893 A1 (BARTS et al) 27 June 2002 (27.06.2002), entire document.	1-20
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents:		
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E"	earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	
Date of the actual completion of the international search 15 May 2006 (15.05.2006)		Date of mailing of the international search report 11 SEP 2006
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner of Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201		Authorized officer Blaine Gort  Telephone No. (571) 272-3600